ministers At one time he was dining and, as was the custom in some Scottish houses, the gospel was being read at table during the repast The reader came to the words, * Whoso denieth me before men, him will I also deny before my Father[3], and as he pronounced these words the Lord Claud rose from the table and attempted to cut his wife's throat, crying out that by her persuasion and that of her brothers, he had denied the faith and sacrificed his soul For several days after this he remained in a state of frenzy so that it was necessary to bind him , nor is he yet entirely recovered

I2tb January PLAYS OF THE WEEK

The Earl of Sussex's men played this past week *Friar Francis, Geotge a Green, Abraham and Lot, Buckingham, Huon of Bordeaux* and *The I an Maid of Italy*

i$th January AN ALCHEMIST'S BEQUEST

Mr Robert Smith of Great Yarmouth hath brought a letter fiom one Roloff Peteison of Lubec to the effect that a certain Clement Ouldfield, born in Kent, came to lodge in his house at Lubec in 1587 and continued there until September 1593 when he died He had studied alchemy night and day, and brought himself to such, perfection that, if the Lord had spared his life but six months longer, he believed he would have reaped his heart's desire The day before he died he secretly informed Peterson that he had at last found out and long kept a secret of such high value, and so far exceeding all other, that none but high and mighty Princes should participate in it, and then delivered to him three glass bodies, containing alchemical preparations, sol, luna, and mercury, explaining the use of these and of sundry others

Moreover, he declared that he had a most wonderful secret,

which in the hands of any man but meanly skilful in this art, would work wonderful things, wishing Peterson to make profit thereby in regard of his kindness , but insomuch as the great and infinite treasures that might be attained by these means rather appertained to the majesty of Kings and Princes than to men of his estate, he bound him by an oath to present the same to the Queen of England, and to await her answer six months before opening the matter to any other, or making profit thereof,